

Library Director's Report

December 7, 2021

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

November Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of November 2021 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations:

We received a check from Salem Central School (from the vote) in the amount of \$29,775.00.

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. This past month I also attended a webinar on the topic of Story Walks.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Everything has been running smoothly. During November we continued to bring the food in through Kevin's office due to the construction. There was not a food delivery on Thanksgiving.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVD's to our shelves that are available for our patrons.
- In November patrons continued to enter and exit through Kevin's office, the interlibrary loan books were picked up and delivered in the bays, and the food deliveries were left outside our temporary entrance.
- We continue to keep our patrons informed of new books and library news through the use of the library's Facebook page, our webpage, newspaper articles, and our newsletter.

- Crystal Paul has begun working at the library as our new Cleaner.
- FYI: We've been experiencing some delays in materials reaching us. We've been trying to order ahead as much as possible but that doesn't necessarily mean we're getting things here any sooner.
- The Friends of the Library once again had a very successful Wreath Sale in November. Many thanks to Wendy and Megan for all their hard work to benefit the library! Also, thank you to Sarah Winslow and her team for once again making the beautiful wreathes and kissing balls and thanks to Mason and Brenda for helping out on pick up day!
- Come see our new Book Tree in the library! Karen put it together one afternoon and it looks amazing!
- Our Christmas/Winter windows are up. Working around the construction was a challenge, but we did. Many thanks to Bev Kratzert and her assistant Randy Dumas. The windows look amazing. We have also placed elves (reading books) in the windows of businesses throughout town. Kids are welcome to stroll through town and find them!
- We closed out the 2020 Challenge Seed Grant. The money from this grant was used to purchase games for the game cabinet. We've been loaning these games out for a number of months now, and have had some great feedback. The Mah Jong set we purchased is used each week by the Mah Jong Club. (See end of report for some patron comments).

Looking Ahead:

- During November I attended a webinar that discussed the process used by libraries to put up a permanent Story Walk that can be used all year round. Karen Fronhofer, the librarian at Salem Central School, attended that same

webinar and we are planning on meeting to see if we could work together to make this happen for our community. I'm waiting to hear from Jack at SALS about a possible funding opportunity for this project.

Programs:

- Scrabble Club continues to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings, Book Club meets the beginning of each month, Mah Jong also meets on Wednesdays, and Noah continues to provide tech help every Tuesday. Chess Club has been on a break for the past few weeks.
- We have made available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community. All the grab and go craft bags are usually gone by Friday. These have been very popular and we have people asking for them each week now. We have received a lot of positive feedback.

PATRON COMMENTS/CHALLENGE GRANT

My husband and I never expected we'd be able to learn MahJongg but because we had such good instructors and the opportunity to learn at the library, we can play well enough already to have lots of fun - and it forces us to think really hard. We're using brain cells that haven't been used lately - and that's a good thing! We've met new people, too! Thank you for offering this interesting game..... Wednesdays at 2:00 - we always look forward to it.

Absolutely Love the Game section. We meet up with friends to play games every Thursday, and your games have been a wonderful addition to our night of fun.

There are some pros and cons but overall love the games!

Cons:

Only 1 week rental (we meet once a week and would really like to have the game for 2 weeks since it takes a few rounds of play to get the hang of some of them.) **(We've advised our patron that we can solve this problem for him at checkout!)**

Good variety but we only play 4+ player games which are not as common as 2-4 player games.

Pros:

Love the non-popular games (everyone seems to have monopoly, but no one has Wingspan which is super fun)

Great variety for all ages and game types (We've played Wingspan, Azul, Isle of Cats, one about pandas that was fun, and probably a few I can't remember)

Would love to see expansions for some of the games (this sometimes helps add more players)

New game suggestions,

"Splendor" is super fun, I own it, so I won't be renting, but I think others would like it.

"Dominion" is a great game that has endless variations and expansions. I would definitely rent this.

"Celestia" which is hard to find. I own the French version since I bought in Canada, but super fun and easy (you also get to build a boat, some ikea assembly skills needed)